

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, OVIP (NGUZA KARL I BOND)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED EMISSARY TO PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: (A) KINSHASA 6440; (B) KINSHASA 6521

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA ASKED ME TO COME BY THIS MORNING, JULY 16. UPPERMOST ON HIS MIND WAS STATUS OF MOBUTU'S PROPOSAL TO SEND NGUZA AS PERSONAL EMISSARY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. NGUZA ASKED IF I HAD YET RECEIVED A REPLY FROM WASHINGTON. ITOLD NGUZA THAT I HAD NOT, BUT THAT I WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM AS SOON I RECEIVED SOME WORD.

2. NGUZA SAID HE WOULD LEAVE WITH THE PRESIDENT ON MONDAY JULY 18 FOR THE MIDDLE EAST. IF HE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER HE WOULD PROCEED DIRECTLY FROM THE MIDDLE EAST TO WASHINGTON AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED. IN THE ABSENCE OF CONFIRMATION, HE WOULD RETURN TO KINSHASA WITH MOBUTU ON JULY 22 TO AWAIT FURTHER WORD. NGUZA REITERATED THAT APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER WAS FOCUS OF HIS ENTIRE TRIP, ADDING THAT HE WOULD BE CARRYING A LETTER FROM MOBUTU TO THE PRESIDENT. (PRESUMABLY THIS IS REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT MESSAGE WHICH AMBASSADOR STEIGMAN PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO MOBUTU IN LIBREVILLE.)

3. COMMENT: CLEAR IMPLICATION OF NGUZA'S REMARKS WAS THAT MOBUTU
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PERSONALLY ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OUR REACTION TO HIS PROPOSED "GESTURE OF APPRECIATION" AND THAT HE MIGHT WELL CANCEL NGUZA'S TRIP UNLESS ASSURED THAT HIS EMISSARY WOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT. WHILE THERE MAY BE AN ELEMENT OF BLUFF IN THIS, IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO UNDERESTIMATE MOBUTU'S GREAT SENSITIVITY ON MATTERS SUCH AS THIS OR THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE IS CAPABLE OF MANIFESTING HIS UNHAPPINESS IF, IN HIS EYES, HE IS REBUFFED. AS

STATED REF A, I BELIEVE IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO OUR INTERESTS
HERE THAT NGUZA BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT AT LEAST BRIEFLY,
AND THAT WE SHOULD IN FACT SEIZE THIS OCCASION TO UNDERSCORE
THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO MOBUTU'S PURSUING THE MAJOR REFORMS
HE HAS ANNOUNCED.
CUTLER

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Sent Date: 16-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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